(c) whether the matter was discussed with the leaders of various political parties particularly the opposition before arriving at this decision which has serious implications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to allow Foreign Direct Investment upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs subject to suitable safeguards like examination of proposals on a case by case basis including verification of antecedents of foreign investor, keeping editorial and management control in the hands of resident Indians and ensuring against dispersal of Indian equity. It has also been decided to allow Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and specially magazines/periodicals/journals and foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and speciality magazines/ periodicals/journals.

(c) to (e) The decision has been taken after addressing the concerns expressed by various quarters.

Electronic media coverage of Cabinet reshuffle

1282. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days, bulletins and the quantum of time devoted by the electronic media to conjectures regarding the Union Cabinet reshuffle that finally took place on July 1, evening; and

(b) the reasons that the electronic media chose to follow the print media in such wasteful practices?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has not role in programming decisions of electronic media including Prasar Bharati which as a statutory autonomous organisation enjoys full autonomy in programme matters.